

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 21 are pending in the application. In the Official Action, claims 1-21 were subjected to an election requirement. By this Response, an election is made without traverse.

As the basis of the election requirement, the Examiner asserts that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: Species I, corresponding to Figs. 1 – 6; Species II, corresponding to Fig. 7; Species III, corresponding to Fig. 8; and, Species IV, corresponding to Fig. 9. The Examiner further asserts that claim 1 is generic to the four species.

In the outstanding Office Action, Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

By this Response, an election is made **without traverse**.

ELECTION

Applicant elects Species I, the species corresponding with Figs. 1 – 6, without traverse.

Applicant submits claims 1 – 21 for examination on the merits as readable upon the elected species.

Applicant notes that upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141.

CONCLUSION

Having made the required election, examination on the merits is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner deem that any further action by Applicant's undersigned representative is desirable and/or necessary, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number set forth below.

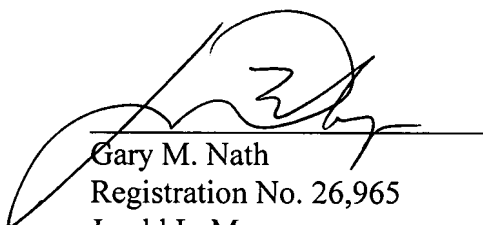
In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,

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